STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (original)   A method for characterizing lung tissue in a subject, comprising:

a)   providing a lung tissue sample; and

b)   detecting a decreased or increased expression relative to a non-cancerous lung tissue control of a marker selected from the group consisting of AOE372, ATP5D, B4GALT, Ppase, GRP58, GSTM4, P4HB, TPI, and UCHL1, thereby characterizing said lung tissue sample.

2. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said expression is increased at least 4.0 fold relative to said non-cancerous lung tissue control.

3. (original)   The method of Claim 1, wherein said detecting the presence of expression of said marker comprises detecting the presence of mRNA corresponding to said marker.

4. (original)   The method of Claim 1, wherein said detecting the presence of expression of said marker comprises detecting the presence of a polypeptide corresponding to said marker.

5. (original)   The method of Claim 1, wherein said characterizing said lung tissue comprises identifying a stage of lung cancer in said lung tissue.

6. (original)   The method of Claim 5, wherein said stage is selected from the group consisting of stage I lung cancer, stage II lung cancer, and stage III lung cancer.

7. (original)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of c) providing a prognosis to said subject.

8-14. (canceled)

2